

Board Sends To First-Notice Proposed Rulemaking To Amend Exemptions From State Permitting Requirements

The Illinois Pollution Control Board on September 15, 2005, sent to first-notice a proposed rulemaking to revise the Board's air construction and operating permit regulations. On February 22, 2005, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group jointly filed this rulemaking docketed as Proposed Amendments To Exemptions From State Permitting Requirements (R05-19). The proponents state the proposal is designed to eliminate permitting delays for minor projects having little environmental or regulatory impact.

This rulemaking seeks to add four categories to the existing list of permit exemptions in Section 201.146 as follows:

1. Replacement or Addition of Air Pollution Control Equipment for Existing Emissions Units;
2. New Emission Units and Modification to Existing Emissions Units at Facilities with Federally Enforceable State Operating Permits (FESOPs);
3. New Emission Units or Modifications to Existing Emission Units at Permitted Sources That Are Not Major Sources or FESOPs, and;
4. Insignificant Activities at Clean Air Act Permit Program Sources

The Board held two public hearings in this rulemaking. The first hearing was April 12, 2005, in Chicago. The second hearing was June 14, 2005, in Springfield.

The amendments proposed for first-notice will be published in the *Illinois Register*. Publication will begin an additional public comment period, which will last at least 45 days. Anyone may file public comments on the first-notice amendments. Written comments should contain the rulemaking title and docket number (R05-19) and should be sent to the Clerk's Office at the following address:

Dorothy Gunn, Clerk
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James R. Thompson Center
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